



Contact Us

Staff Senate
Department 3413
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

Room 225, Wyoming Hall
Phone: (307) 766-5300
E-mail: staffsen@uwyo.edu
Web: www.uwyo.edu/staffsenate



4/8 Meeting Agenda

- I. Roll call
- II. Approve March minutes
- III. Approve April agenda
- IV. Administration reports
 - A. Div. of Admin.
 - B. Human Resources
- V. Officer Reports
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Resolution #209, third reading
 - A. Resolution #213, second reading
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Liaison Reports
- IX. Committee Reports
- X. Open forum

Dates to Remember

March 31, 2015

Performance Evaluations Due

March 31, 2015

Deadline to submit claims for the Flexible Benefits Plan

March 30 - April 3, 2015

Advising Week



You're an Essential Piece

Staff Recognition Day
April 28, 2015 10 AM
Crane Hill Dining Hall

STAFF SENATE NEWS

March 2015

Please Join Us For Staff Recognition Day on April 28!

WHEN: Tuesday, April 28, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Crane Hill Dining Hall

WHY: To recognize staff achievement

Staff Recognition Day is an annual event honoring the hard-working staff of the University of Wyoming. It provides an opportunity to show all staff members how much they are appreciated for everything they do to keep the main UW campus, and the facilities throughout the State of Wyoming, functioning and providing a top-notch educational experience to thousands of students.

This year's event features:

- Food and beverages by UW Catering
- Door prizes and a raffle,
- A running slide show honoring UW staff employees
- Recognition of **Years of Service** for employees who have worked, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years at UW, and
- 20 **Staff Awards** given out to the University's outstanding staff members,

Staff Senate also recognizes supporters of the University of Wyoming with the **Sponsors** and **Friends** of UW awards.

We are proud of the quality of work being done by UW staff members. We encourage you to come and celebrate with us on April 28!

UW Relay for Life

Relay for Life at UW is scheduled for April 10-11, 2015 in the UW Fieldhouse.



Join UW Staff Senate for
UW Relay for Life
April 10, 6:00pm, UW Fieldhouse

We would love to have as many UW staff members on our team as possible! You don't have to be on Senate to join us. You also don't have to commit to walking all night – come walk with us for a shift at whatever time in the night or morning works best for you. As long as we have some members of the team walking all night, we consider it a successful relay.

To register, go to **Relay for Life at UW**, select "UW Staff Senate" as your team, and use the "Pay with Cash or Check" option. This way your registration fee will be waived. We would love to have you join us!



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Staff Senate Current Resolutions

UW Staff Senate has had a couple busy months with the introduction of several new resolutions on issue that we believe directly affect UW staff, some of which have passed and some of which are in second or third reading.

Resolutions include:

- #209: **Staff Senate Position on Concealed Carry of Firearms on Campus** (passed);
- #210: **Recommendations for Use of E-Cigarettes on University of Wyoming Campus** (going to third reading);
- #211: **Recommendations for Endowed Chairs Initiative** (passed);
- #212: **Staff Senate Position on Cost Analysis Procedure for Capital Construction Projects** (passed); and
- #213: **Resolution in Support of Establishing a Comprehensive Anti-Retaliation Policy for UW Staff Employees** (going to second reading).

As always, as full Staff Senate meetings (second Wednesday of every month at 1:15 p.m.) **are open to the public**, and we welcome your feedback on current legislation or any other issue.

Ask a Question: How Are Landscaping and Tree Removal Decisions Made on Campus?

Got a question of about the University of Wyoming or your employment here? Ask away at: staffsen@uwyo.edu.

QUESTION: Is there a University committee that makes landscaping and tree removal decisions on campus? Why were the spruce trees removed at the College of Business?

ANSWER (from Assoc.VP of Operations Mark Collins): “Decisions on tree removal are authorized by UW Administration upon the recommendation of UW Physical Plant. UW Landscaping and Grounds maintains a comprehensive tree inventory for the UW campus. They closely monitor trees for stress, disease and potential hazards. In the case of **the trees at the College of Business (COB)**, they were highly stressed during the construction of the COB addition. There was heavy construction/equipment traffic in this vicinity for a significant period of time. UW Physical Plant has worked with the trees since construction in an attempt to save them. Efforts included additional water and deep root fertilization. Those efforts did not prove successful, and the trees had to be removed. UW Physical Plant attempts to be proactive about tree removal to be sure that dead and dying trees do not potentially ‘blow down’ in a wind storm and become a severe safety issue. The trees will be replaced with 20-foot blue spruce trees this spring.”

Points to Ponder: CommuterLink Bus Route

With the upcoming suspension of Laramie’s **Gem City Grand** bus service, which can no longer be sustained by the Albany County Transportation Authority (ACTA) and which in 2014 had ridership of nearly 87,000, has come plans for a new, more limited bus route that would be open to both students and the public at no charge.

CommuterLink, consisting of two routes extending from downtown Laramie on the west to Wal-Mart on the east, is scheduled to begin operation at the start of the 2015-2016 academic year. The new service would be in addition to existing UW bus routes that primarily access campus locations. While the Gem City Grand has operated with three buses from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekdays and 1-6 p.m. Saturdays — with 10 a.m.-6 p.m. service on designated holidays — CommuterLink would use two buses operating from 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays, with no service on weekends or holidays.

Current plans call for CommuterLink west stops to be:

- Downtown Laramie (First and Grand),
- Laramie Plains Civic Center, and
- Wyoming Union, a linking point with existing UW bus routes.

Envisioned CommuterLink east stops are:

- Wal-Mart,
- Corner of Beech and Glacier streets,

- LCCC,
- Laramie Recreation Center,
- Ridley’s grocery store,
- Spanish Walk Apartments,
- Wyoming Union.

Travel time from downtown to Wal-Mart would be 30 minutes, the same as that of the Gem City Grand.

CommuterLink buses are not scheduled to operate when the university is closed, such as during the annual winter closure. Summer service in 2016 is not planned at this point, although consideration will be given to a pilot run of limited summer operations.

Did You Know? Supplemental Retirement Plans

The University of Wyoming is introducing a Roth contribution option to the 403(b) and 457(b) supplemental retirement plans beginning March 1, 2015.

You can now choose to make:

- Pre-tax contributions,
- Roth after-tax contributions, or
- Both pre-tax and Roth after-tax contributions.

The annual contribution limit remains \$18,000, or \$24,000 if you are over 50 years old, regardless of whether the contributions are made on a pre or after-tax basis. You may contribute to both a 403(b) and a 457(b), with separate limits for each.

Consider a Roth contribution if you:

- Are not eligible to make Roth IRA contributions because of high income.
- Want to make Roth contributions greater than the Roth IRA limit.
- Feel confident your retirement income needs are met and want to leave a potential tax-free legacy.
- Want to help protect your retirement assets from potential tax consequences.
- Are just starting out and in a lower tax bracket.
- Expect your tax rate in retirement to be higher than your current rate.

Please consult a financial or tax advisor to help determine the tax consequences of making Roth after-tax contributions, and any other applicable IRS rules and restrictions. To change the amount you are contributing to a supplemental retirement plan, or designate all or a portion of the contributions to be made on an after-tax basis, submit a completed salary reduction agreement to Human Resources. All changes will be made in your paycheck the month following the one in which the form is received.

Know Your Senators – Arron Sullivent, VP

Arron has called Wyoming ‘home’ since his freshman year of high school, way back in 1981. After high school he served in the Army, stationed in Germany as a linguist. Upon returning home he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from UW. This launched him into a succession of sales and management positions, culminating in a career in Real Estate. Arron returned to Laramie in 2008 to lead operations of a local property management company.

After a 19-year absence from UW – to the day – he returned to join the Real Estate Operations department here on campus. That same year he married his lovely and lively wife, LaRae Stibitz. While working on campus, he has had nieces, his stepson and his stepdaughter attending classes, in addition to LaRae. As the University has been such a huge factor in his family life, Arron felt compelled to become more involved with campus life.

While on Staff Senate, Arron seeks to increase open communication with the constituent community, improve employment opportunities and leadership training, and promote the continued cooperative efforts between Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and the ASUW. Arron is President-Elect for 2015-2016.

You can reach Arron at asullive@uwyo.edu. Have More Questions? Send an email to staffsen@uwyo.edu or call 766-5300.